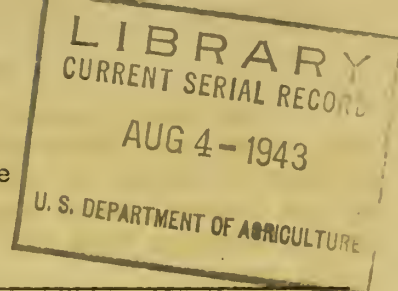


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FOOD INFORMATION

Office of Information
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Goals Campaign

No. 27

Subject: REPLANTING ACREAGE WHERE CROPS HAVE FAILED

Distribution: War Board Members and Information Workers

Suggested Use: Background information for use in preparing press releases, radio talks, and in discussions with individual farmers who for some reason will not be able to harvest a crop from part of their acreage, either because of failure or because unfavorable weather made it impossible for them to plant the crop originally intended. Emphasis should be placed on crops that are best adapted to the locality.

In an average year, around 13 million acres of American farm land go unharvested because of crop failure. If 13 million acres were all in one place, the area would occupy a space on the map slightly smaller than the three States of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. It would be almost as large as West Virginia. It would be about twice the size of Maryland.

Actually, of course, land on which crops have been abandoned is not grouped in one place, but widely scattered over the Nation. It consists of half an acre here, a couple of acres there. And so, in normal times, it has attracted relatively little attention.

Today we are at war. Demands for American food and fiber are far higher than at any time in the past; higher than any one imagined possible a few years back. In such circumstances, every acre that is not producing for the United Nations is working for Hitler and the Japs.

By the early part of July, the acreage that will not produce the crop to which it was originally planted, or for which it was originally intended, can usually be determined. Therefore, it is necessary that farmers consider whether they can do something about it.

In most cases, something can be done to put this idle acreage to work.

Food Crops Can Be Planted

Late potatoes can be planted during the first week of July in the East Central States and west to Missouri. Some seed is now coming in from Canada.

The summer garden crops should not be neglected. Carrots, turnips, snap beans, and sweet corn for the fall crop, all can be planted in the regions of milder climate following early vegetables which are now maturing. In the warmer areas, carrots and turnips planted during July are better for winter storage than the early crop, which matures while the weather is still hot.

Other Crops

It is possible to plant soybeans for hay until the first of July in most areas. Although seed of the oil varieties of soybeans is somewhat short, there is a good supply of the hay varieties.

Sudan grass, which makes an emergency hay crop almost as good as the hay varieties of soybeans, can be planted generally through the first part of July. Plenty of Sudan grass seed is available.

Millet can be planted in most sections until the first of July, provided that seed can be obtained.

In some sections, it will not be too late to plant fodder corn for several weeks. The corn probably will not mature for harvesting as grain, but it can be used for silage. The same is true of the grain sorghums in the areas where they are grown. Corn and sorghum seed is likely to be available in the areas where those two crops are usually grown.

Buckwheat, a fast-growing crop, can be planted until July 10. It produces grain which makes good feed when fed with other grains and concentrates.

Improve Fall Pastures

Fall pastures can be improved by application of fertilizer containing nitrogen. A complete fertilizer is recommended, rather than straight nitrogen. At least 300 pounds per acre of 7-7-7 fertilizer or its equivalent can be applied to advantage on a good stand of pasture.

Rye can be sown in August to make a fall pasture and at the same time provide winter cover. It can be grown following oats, sod, or corn, and can even be sown between the rows after the last cultivation of corn.

Program Must Fit Individual Farm

A variety of feed and food crops which can be planted during the next few weeks have been mentioned. No one of these crops will be suited to the needs or the rotation practices of every region or every farm. But from them, and from others which the State agricultural colleges and county agricultural agents can suggest, the farmer will be able to select some which fit his particular type of farming.

The need for food to keep American civilians, American fighting men, and our fighting allies in top-notch physical condition and to save the people of liberated areas from starvation is unlimited. So is the demand for the farm products mentioned as suitable for planting in early summer.

In the face of this great need and of this great demand, farmers display both patriotism and horse sense when they refuse to let the failure of one crop on a few acres of their land keep those acres out of production. In many instances the labor of preparing the land for cultivation has already been expended and fertilizer has already been applied. It is imperative that both labor and fertilizer be made to yield a return to the Nation and to the farmer.

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